

With Edged Tools

By HENRY SETON MERRIMAN
Author of "The Sowers," "Roden's Corner," "From
One Generation to Another," Etc.

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It was on the open ground in front of the tents that Guy Oscar drew up his quick marching column before the sun had sprung up in the fantastic tropical way from the distant line of virgin forest. As he walked along the line, making a suggestion here, pulling on a shoulder rope there, he looked stanch and strong as any man might wish to be. His face was burned so brown that eyebrows and mustache stood out almost blond, though in reality they were only brown. His eyes did not seem to be suffering from the heaviness noticeable in others; altogether, the climate and the mystic breath of the simalaine did not appear to affect him as they did his companions. This was probably accounted for by the fact that, being chief of the hunters, most of his days had been passed on the lower slopes in search of game.

Oscar gave the signal for the men to start, and the long caravan defiled. The porters nodded to Meredith with a great display of white teeth, while the head men, the captains of tens, stepped out of the ranks and shook hands.

Before they had disappeared over the edge of the plateau Joseph came forward to say goodbye to Oscar.

"And it is understood," said the latter, "that I pay in to your account at Lloyd's bank your share of the proceeds."

Joseph grinned. "Yes, sir; if you please; presumably it's a safe bank."

Meredith walked a little way down the slope with Oscar.

"Goodbye, old chap," he said, when the parting came. "Good luck, and all that. Hope you will find all right at home. By the way," he shouted after him, "give my kind regards to the Gordons at Loango."

And so the first consignment of simalaine was sent from the plateau to the coast.

Guy Oscar was one of those deceptive men who only do a few things and do those few very well. In forty-three days he deposited the twenty precious cases in Gordon's go-downs at Loango and paid off the porters, of whom he had not lost one. These duties performed, he turned his steps toward the bungalow. He had refused Gordon's invitation to stay with him until the next day, when the coasting steamer was expected. To tell the truth, he was not very much prepossessed in Maurice's favor, and it was with a doubtful mind that he turned his steps toward the little house in the forest between Loango and the sea.

"And when did you leave them?" asked Jocelyn, after her visitor had explained who he was.

"I left them forty-four days ago," he replied.

"And were they well?"

"Oh, yes," he replied. "You know Meredith?"

"Yes," she said. "We know Mr. Meredith."

The visitor did not speak at once, and she looked up at him over the flowers, with grave politeness.

"Meredith," he said, "is one of the most remarkable men I have ever met."

"Really," she replied, with a kindly interest. "How?"

"He is not the man I took him for. He is so wonderfully polite and gentle and pleasant."

"Are you going back to them?"

"No, I leave tomorrow morning early by the Portuguese boat. I am going home to be married."

"Indeed! Then I suppose you will wash your hands of Africa forever?"

"Not quite," he replied. "I told Meredith that I would be prepared to go up to him in case of emergency, but not otherwise. I shall, of course, still be interested in the scheme. I take home the first consignment of simalaine; we have been very successful, you know. I shall have to stay in London to sell that. I have a house there."

"Are you to be married at once?" inquired Jocelyn, with that frank interest which makes it so much easier for a man to talk of his own affairs to a woman than to one of his own sex.

"As soon as I can arrange it," he answered, with a little laugh. "There is nothing to wait for. We are both orphans, and fortunately we are fairly well off."

He was fumbling in his breast pocket and presently he rose, crossed the room and handed her, quite without afterthought or self-consciousness, a photograph in a morocco case.

Explanation was unnecessary, and Jocelyn Gordon looked smilingly upon a smiling, bright young face.

"She is very pretty," she said honestly.

Whereupon Guy Oscar granted unintelligibly.

"Meredith," he said, after a little pause—"Meredith is her name."

"Meredith?" repeated Jocelyn. "Meredith what?"

"Meredith Chyne."

Jocelyn folded the morocco case together and handed it back to him.

"She is very pretty," she repeated slowly, as if her mind could only reproduce it was incapable of creation.

Oscar looked puzzled. Having risen, he did not sit down again, and presently he took his leave, feeling convinced that Jocelyn was about to faint.

When he was gone the girl sat wearily down.

"Meredith Chyne," she whispered. "What is to be done?"

"Nothing," she answered to herself after awhile. "Nothing. It is not my business. I can do nothing."

She sat there alone, as she had been all her life, until the short tropical twilight fell over the forest. Quite suddenly she burst into tears.

"It is my business," she sobbed. "It is no good pretending otherwise; but I can do nothing."

Four months elapsed and the excitement created in the small world of western Africa by the first dazzling success of the simalaine expedition began to subside. The thing took its usual course. At first the experts disbelieved and then they prophesied that it could not last. Finally the active period of envy, hatred and malice gave way to a sullen tolerance not unminged with an indelible grudge toward Fortune who had favored the brave once more.

Maurice Gordon was in daily expectation of news from that far-off favored spot they vaguely called the plateau. And Jocelyn did not pretend to conceal from herself the hope that Jack Meredith might bring the news in person.

Instead came Victor Durnovo.

He came upon her one evening when she was walking slowly home from a mild tea party at the house of a missionary. Hearing footsteps on the sandy soil, she turned and found herself face to face with Durnovo.

"I was coming along to see you," he said, and there was a subtle offense in his tone.

She did not trouble to tell him that Maurice was away for ten days. She felt that he knew that.

"When do you go back?" she asked carelessly.

"Almost at once," in a tone that apologized for causing her necessary pain. "I must leave tomorrow or the next day. I do not like the idea of Meredith being left too long alone up there with a reduced number of men. Of course, I had to bring a pretty large escort. I brought down 500,000 worth of simalaine."

"Have you had any more sickness among the men?" she asked at once in a tone of half veiled sarcasm which made him wince.

"No," he answered; "they have been quite all right."

"What time do you start?" she asked.

"There are letters for Mr. Meredith at the office. Maurice's head clerk will give them to you."

She knew that these letters were from Meredith. She had actually had them in her hand. She had inhaled the faint, refined scent of the paper and envelopes.

They had reached the gate of the bungalow garden. She turned and held out her hand in an undecidable manner. He bowed goodly and went his way, wondering vaguely what had happened to them both. The conversation had taken a different turn from what he had expected and intended. But somehow it had got beyond his control. He had looked forward to a very different ending to the interview. And now he found himself returning somewhat disconsolately to the wretched hotel in Loango—dismissed—sent back. The next day he actually left the little west African coast town, turning his face northward with bad grace. Even at that distance he feared Jack Meredith's half veiled sarcasm. Durnovo had only been allowed to come down to the coast under a promise, graceful, veiled, but distinct enough, that he should only remain twenty hours in Loango.

Jocelyn avoided seeing him again. Four days later she was riding through the native town of Loango, accompanied by a lady friend, when she met Victor Durnovo. The sight of him gave her a distinct shock. She knew that he had left Loango three days before with all his men. There was no doubt about that. Moreover, his air was distinctly furtive—almost sardonic. It was evident that the chance meeting was as undesired by him as it was surprising to her.

"I thought you had left," she said shortly, pulling up her horse with undecidable decision.

"Yes, but I have come back for—for more men."

She knew he was lying, and he felt that she knew.

"Indeed!" she said. "You are not a good starter."

She turned her horse's head, nodded to her friend, bowed coldly to Durnovo and trotted toward home. In the forest she applied the spur, and beneath the whispering trees, over the silent sand, the girl galloped home as fast as her horse could lay legs to ground.

CHAPTER XV.

ON hearing the bungalow Jocelyn turned aside into the forest where a little colony of birds nestled in a hollow of the sand dunes.

"Nala," she cried, "the paddlemaker. Ask him to come to me."

In a few moments a man emerged from a shed of banana leaves. He was a scraggy man, very lightly clad, and a violent squint handicapped him seriously in the matter of first impressions.

"I came to you," said Jocelyn, "because I know that you are an intelligent man and a great traveler."

"What is to be done?"

A SOUTHERN MAN FOR PRESIDENT

Northern Democrats Are Now Taking Up Idea.

North Entangled in So Many Issues, Only Pure Democracy Exists in South.

SENTIMENT IS GROWING FAST.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 25.—There is nothing more dominant in political sentiment among Democrats in Washington, embracing transients and permanent residents about the capital, than that it is now time for the party to be looking about for a southern man to nominate for president in 1908. Heretofore this talk has been of sporadic occurrence. Now it is so common as to be almost of an endemic character.

What makes it all the more significant is that it is not confined to southern people, some of the most earnest and ardent advocates being northern Democrats. This is explained in the fact that the party in the northern states has seriously entangled itself with so many issues, and is so prone to form alliances with any sort of opposition to the Republican party, regardless of principles that are traditionally and irreconcilably opposed to Democratic doctrine. Old-fashioned Democrats, taught in the school of Seymour, Tilden, Cleveland, Thurman and Hendricks in the north, despairing of the integrity of the party's leadership in their own quarter, are ready in large numbers to turn to the south for a standard-bearer.

"Let the straight Democrats of the south set about discussing the best man they can find for the nomination in 1908; let him be a southern Democrat of national reputation and of undoubted integrity and patriotism, and you will find hundreds of thousands of northern Democrats eager to rally to him."

This is literally quoted from the observation of a veteran Illinois Democrat who has spent many years in New York and the east on business affairs and is now in Washington for a brief stay.

Thinly and Wise.

"It is all nonsense to depreciate the nomination of a Democrat who is a southern man," he added. "It is timely, it is expedient and it is wise. The Democrats in every one of the southern states have preserved the integrity of the party and remained steadfast to its vital principles. They have kept the faith as it has not been kept by the northern Democracy in many of the states."

"The socialistic and other paternalistic and centralistic elements that have been taken into the Democratic fold in northern states and communities would not even ask for admission to the Democratic councils of any southern state, because they know the door would be shut in their faces. Another thing, it is a very important fact at this time, with the serious, not to say alarming drift in the northern states of sentiment which is reckless of the preservation of our institutions as the wise forethought of the founders of the republic fashioned and patterned them."

"The vast influx of foreigners since the days of Democratic ascendancy has created too large a proportion of citizenship north of the Potomac and Ohio rivers which is not in patriotic sympathy with institutions that are unmistakably American. That is not the case with the southern Democratic states. There, undeniably, are the purest Americans and consequently the purest American sentiment. The south has proved in blood that its patriotism embraced the whole union, then why should there be any question of the devotion of its statesmanship to the welfare of all the people?"

"I am longing to vote the straight Democratic ticket with a straight Democrat for my standard bearer and there is a multitude of Democrats in the northern states who feel as I do, that it is a good time to take him from the south, where that kind of Democrat and that kind of Democracy have unquestioned sway."

Street Car Franchise for Sale.

On Friday, the 26th of October, 1906, about the hour of 10 o'clock a. m., at the door of the City Hall, I will offer for sale a street car franchise, for a term of 20 years, according to ordinance recently passed by the city council.

The ordinance is on file in the Auditor's office and can be seen by those desiring to purchase. This sale is made subject to the approval of the General Council.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Respectfully,
D. A. YELDER,
Mayor of the city of Paducah, Ky.

It is a shock to the man who thinks that he is world famous to discover that there are people in the next block who never heard of him.

WATER CONTRACT TO BE VOTED ON AT THE NOVEMBER ELECTION

REPORT OF JOINT LIGHT AND WATER COMMITTEE ON NEW CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PADUCAH AND THE PADUCAH WATER COMPANY.

Owing to the fact that the contract existing between the city of Paducah and the local water company for fire hydrants expires during the current month it was incumbent upon the general council to negotiate for such service covering the remaining period which the franchise of the water company still has to run, to-wit: eighteen years.

After several conferences between the joint light and water committee and the officers of the water company a scale of rates for fire hydrants was agreed upon by the committee and the water company. These rates have been embodied in a contract which will be submitted to the general council for such action as the wisdom of that body may determine. If the proposed contract is favorably acted upon by the general council, it must be submitted to the voters of the city at the next election and affirmatively ratified by not less than two-thirds of the vote then cast upon the question before contract between the city and the water company can be finally executed.

It is therefore worth while for the voters of the city to carefully consider the terms of the proposed contract before casting their votes at the coming election, and if it appears that the proposed contract is to the advantage of the city, then to register their approval thereof upon their ballots.

In order that the voters may have an opportunity to become fully advised regarding the terms of the proposed contract a copy of the same is herewith submitted which reads as follows:

"Section 1. That the City of Paducah, Ky., agrees to rent and does hereby rent from Paducah Water Company, its successors and assigns, four hundred and eleven (411) double nozzle fire hydrants now established in said city for a period of eighteen (18) years from the passage and final approval of this ordinance, after an election by the people as hereinafter provided. The annual rental for each of said fire hydrants, which the city of Paducah hereby agrees to pay for the first ten (10) years of said term, shall be twenty (\$20.00) dollars and the annual rental for the remaining eight (8) years shall be fifteen (\$15.00) dollars, unless the said city shall sooner purchase water company's plant, with six (6) per cent interest upon deferred payments. The payments of said rentals shall be made as provided in the original ordinance contract.

"Section 2. All additional hydrants on extensions of mains that may be erected hereafter by the Paducah Water company, its successors or assigns, as provided in the original ordinance contract, during the said eighteen years, shall be charged and paid for as provided in section one hereof, but at the expiration of ten (10) years from the time this ordinance shall have been finally approved as set out above, all the then fire hydrants shall be charged and paid for at the uniform rate as above provided and the contract thereof shall expire at the end of the eighteen years fixed in section one.

"Section 3. Before this ordinance shall become effective it shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified voters of the city of Paducah, Ky., at the general election to be held in said city on the 6th day of November, 1906, the said vote to be taken in the manner and as provided by law for the submission of public questions to the voters of said city.

"Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from its passage and approval and ratification by the qualified voters of the city of Paducah, Ky., and written acceptance of its terms and conditions by the Paducah Water company filed with the clerk of the city of Paducah, Ky., within ten (10) days after the official certificate of its approval at the popular election."

At the present time the water company has installed for the use of the city 411 fire plugs, which under the old contract are rated and cost each year as follows:

150 fire plugs at \$40.00... \$6,000.00
30 fire plugs at \$30.00... 900.00
231 fire plugs at \$25.00... 5,775.00

Total... \$12,675.00

Under the proposed contract this same service would cost the city but \$3,220.00 for each of the first ten years of the contract a saving upon the number of hydrants now installed of \$4,455.00 per annum and for the ten year period a saving of \$44,550.00.

For each of the last eight years which the franchise has to run, the cost for 411 hydrants would be \$6,165, a saving to the city of \$6,510 per annum or of \$52,080 for the entire eight years of the franchise, making a total saving to the city between the existing contract and

the proposed contract of \$96,630.

There is nothing contained in the proposed contract changing the rights of the city or those of the water company under the original franchise. The city still retains the right to purchase the water company's plant at the expiration of each five year period in accordance with the terms of the original franchise.

This committee has also compared the rates contained in the proposed contract with those in effect in 127 other cities for the same class of service and finds the proposed rates lower than those paid by any of these cities. The approximate average cost per hydrant in the number of cities mentioned above is \$48.

The rates referred to were submitted by the local water company and this committee assume that the figures are correct. The list of the cities with the rate paid in each is on file with this committee and anyone desiring to verify the figures contained therein may have the opportunity of doing so at any time.

It should also be borne in mind that until a new contract is entered into between the city and the water company, that the rates charged under the existing contract will maintain. The only alternatives offered to escape from the old rates are either to make a new contract or to discontinue the service, the latter, of course, being quite impossible.

Therefore this committee has no hesitation in recommending to the general council and to the voters of the city of Paducah that the proposed contract be ratified.

JOINT LIGHT AND WATER COMMITTEE.

INSURANCE ABUSES.

Reported By Special Investigation Committee of Indiana.

Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 25.—A special committee appointed by the governor, which has been investigating the office of the auditor of state for a year with special reference to mutual aid stock life insurance companies, today submitted its report to Gov. Hanley. The general conclusions of the committee are that "the cost of life insurance to the public is too high."

"The present maximum premium rates for insurance are so much in excess of needs as to permit of extravagant management of companies, theft of their funds, diversion of profits and other great abuses without rendering the companies insolvent. Indiana insurance companies, like many companies of other states, have been guilty of extravagance and abuses, though they have maintained solvency."

The Texas Wonder

Cures all kidney, bladder and rheumatic troubles; sold by J. H. Oehl-schlaeger, 601 Broadway, Dr. E. W. Hall, office 2326 Olive street, St. Louis, Mo.

Many a popular actor finds himself struggling with hard lines.

MOTT'S PENNYROYAL PILLS

Safe and reliable, they overcome weakness, increase vigor, banish pains. No remedy equals DR. MOTT'S PENNYROYAL PILLS. Sold by Druggists and Dr. Mott's Chemical Co., Cleveland, Ohio.

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JANES

REAL ESTATE
MORTGAGES &
LOANS

Lots on Tennessee and Jones streets between 8th and 9th, \$375 cash or \$400, part on time.

412 South 9th St., 6 rooms in good fix, at \$1,650, part on time.

418 South 9th St., 6 rooms, house good condition, at \$1,750, part time.

503 Fountain Ave., 6 room house, nice, water inside, excellent location. See me as to price which depends on terms of payment.

Some excellent farm offers near city, do now for sub-division and pay handsome profit at once on present prices.

Madison St. Fountain Park corner lot at \$650. Only chance in park.

Nice North 5th St. 9-room house in excellent condition at \$2,800. Only 3 blocks from Palmer House.

Three houses, rents about \$30 month. N. E. corner 6th and Ohio Sts., good investment at \$2,400.

Have at all times money to loan on farm land at 6 per cent interest, 10 years' time. Certainly getting money wanted if farm and title all right.

Have acre land just outside city limits, in very choice location, can sell in any quantity wanted from about 1 1/2 acres up. Well opened up with wide streets and best offers in this class about city.

Five acres fronting 515 feet on south side of Hinkleville road near city limits at \$300 acre. This land can be subdivided into lots and resold at handsome profit. Easy payments.

Five 4-room double houses on lots each 40x165 feet to 150 foot alley, on north side of Clay street between 12th and 13th streets at \$1,050 each, \$100 cash and balance in monthly payments of \$15. Rents now at \$10 month. These are bargains for investment, as houses in good condition and ground rapidly rising in value. Take one or more.

One nice 7-room houses in city new, never been occupied, all modern conveniences, near Madison St. fronting on Fountain Ave. and opposite Lang park, at \$300, part on time. This is fine offer in good home. Lock at it and see.

4 6-10 acres near Wallace Park, high, well drained, with excellent surroundings, 60 foot street in front of it, at \$1,000 on any reasonable payments desired.

First-class cottage of 6 rooms, just renovated throughout, on north side of Jefferson St. between 13th and 14th, at \$3,500.

Several Rowlandtown lots on \$5.00 monthly payments.

24